Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) An automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of

(a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;

(b) a dimer fatty acid having a dimer content of greater than 94% by weight; and

(c) at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms; ~~atoms with~~

wherein the resultant ester ~~having~~ has a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm^2/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

~~NPI = total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight / number of carboxylate groups x 100~~

$$NPI = \frac{\text{total number of carbon atoms x molecular weight}}{\text{number of carboxylate groups x 100}}$$

of at least 500.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ automotive engine oil of claim 2, ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein (c) is an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ automotive engine oil of claim 2, ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein the polyfunctional alcohol is a polyol of formula R(OH)n where n is an integer which ranges from 1 to 10 and R is a hydrocarbon chain of 2 to 15 carbon atoms where the polyol is of molecular weight in the range from 50 to 650.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ automotive engine oil of claim 2, ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein the resultant ester has a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C of 900 to 4000 mm^2/s.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ automotive engine oil of claim 2, ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein the resultant ester has an NPI value of at least 900.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ automotive engine oil of claim 2, ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein the resultant ester has an average molecular weight of at least 3000.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ automotive engine oil of claim 2, ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein the antiwear additive system further comprises a phosphorus-containing and/or sulphur-containing antiwear additive.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ automotive engine oil of ~~according to~~ claim 9 wherein the further antiwear additive is both a phosphorus-containing and sulphur-containing additive.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ automotive engine oil of ~~according to~~ claim 9 wherein the futher antiwear additive is zinc dialkyl dithiophosphate.

12-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing wear in an automotive engine by the addition of an automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an ester which is the reaction product of

(a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;
(b) a dimer fatty acid having a dimer content of greater than 94% by weight; and
(c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms; ~~atoms with~~ wherein the resultant ester ~~having~~ has a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm^2/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

~~NPI = total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight / number of carboxylate groups x 100~~

$$NPI = \frac{\text{total number of carbon atoms x molecular weight}}{\text{number of carboxylate groups x 100}}$$

of at least 500; and

wherein the automotive engine oil has a phosphorus level of no more than 0.08%.

16. (Currently Amended) An antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of

(a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;

(b) a dimer fatty acid having a dimer content of greater than 94% by weight; and

(c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 7 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 7 to 24 carbon atoms; ~~atoms with~~ wherein the resultant ester ~~having~~ has a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm^2/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

~~$$NPI = \frac{\text{total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight}}{\text{number of carboxylate groups x 100}}$$~~

$$NPI = \frac{\text{total number of carbon atoms x molecular weight}}{\text{number of carboxylate groups x 100}}$$

of at least 500.

17. (Currently Amended) An automotive engine comprising an automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of

(a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;

(b) a dimer fatty acid; and

(c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms; ~~atoms with~~ wherein the resultant ester ~~having~~ has a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm^2/s ~~mm2/s~~ and a non-polarity index (NPI)

~~NPI = total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight~~
~~number of carboxylate groups x 100~~

$$NPI = \frac{\text{total number of carbon atoms x molecular weight}}{\text{number of carboxylate groups x 100}}$$

of at least 500.

18. (New) An automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of:

(a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;

(b) a dimer fatty acid; and

(c) at least an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms;

wherein the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm^2/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

$$NPI = \frac{\text{total number of carbon atoms x molecular weight}}{\text{number of carboxylate groups x 100}}$$

of at least 500.

19. (New) A method of reducing wear in an automotive engine by the addition of an automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an ester which is the reaction product of:

(a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;

(b) a dimer fatty acid; and

(c) at least an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms;

wherein the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm^2/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

$$NPI = \frac{\text{total number of carbon atoms x molecular weight}}{\text{number of carboxylate groups x 100}}$$

of at least 500; and

wherein the automotive engine oil has a phosphorus level of no more than 0.08%.

20. (New) An antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of:

(a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;

(b) a dimer fatty acid; and

(c) at least an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms;

wherein the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm^2/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

$$NPI = \frac{\text{total number of carbon atoms x molecular weight}}{\text{number of carboxylate groups x 100}}$$

of at least 500.

21. (New) The automotive engine oil of claim 2, wherein the at least one polyfunctional alcohol is neopentylglycol; and the component (c) is azeleic acid.